

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Eddy Dickinson
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Greg Lowery
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Sting of Sin



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Chain Reaction of Sin

By Travis Mann

There were only fifteen judges chosen by God to deliver his people. They hold a special place in the history of Israel. They did great things by the power of God. Their leadership often guided Israel away from sin. However, their leadership was not always perfect. A poor action by a leader can affect generations. Such effects have been seen by rulers around the world. The people often take upon themselves the attitudes and behaviors of their leader and once sin is born the tide of consequences are rarely turned.

Gideon, despite following the direction of God in the deliverance of Israel, also led them into sin. Following the triumph over the Midianite kings, Gideon took the spoils of war and fashioned an ephod in his city Ophrah. An ephod is a shoulder garment worn by a priest. The 8th chapter of Judges declares Gideon's Ephod was a snare to his house and it caused Israel to go a "whoring" after it. This phrase is in reference to the relationship between God and his people. God was as a husband and Israel as his bride. Israel chose to worship the ephod as they did the golden calf when Moses was on Mt. Sinai. God declared then that Israel should have no other Gods besides Him (Exodus 20). The action of Israel in the time of Gideon was that of adultery against God. Certainly, this was not the original intent of Gideon, but he was the cause of it.

When Adam sinned, it affected an entire world (Genesis 3). When Korah sinned his actions led to the death of approximately 15,000 Israelites (Numbers 16). In Judges 17-18, household idols formed by a man named Micah would ultimately be taken and worshipped by the tribe of Dan. Their sinful idol worship would continue until Israel went into captivity. Many New Testament books speak of sins coming into the Church and spreading. Sin is infectious and frequently does not stop with one person. It certainly did not with Gideon.

Many of us can look back on our lives and wish to take away sinful actions which caused pain and stress upon ourselves and others. Let us walk carefully in the way of the Lord and seek to do His Will with every step.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda's Brother-In-Law} is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn's Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn's Sister}: is in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer can be defeated

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Billy Wayne Burleson: is improving from recent surgery, please pray that he continues to improve

Bobby Sanderson: continues to make improvements, please pray that this continues

Don Lawrence: met with doctors concerning blockage with kidneys and are going to wait until February before taking further steps, please continue to keep him your prayers

Winfred York: has been diagnosed with lung cancer, please keep him and Vertie Mae in your prayers

Upcoming Events

Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
January 20 th	Missionary Report {Dorian Flynn}	10:00 am
January 20 th	Fellowship Meal	
January 20 th	Bible Bowl {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Jeff Upton {Co-Worker of Donna} severe back problems waiting to have surgery, please keep him in your prayers

Paul Glen Davis: experienced severe burns and is in serious condition at UAB, please pray for him and his family

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Wyatt Spann: is currently fighting a brain tumor, please pray that with medical help he can win this fight

Beware of “Cotton Candy”

By Dan Jenkins

I remember the very first time I ever saw cotton candy. When I was very young the highlight of every year was the county fair in Huntsville, Alabama. Today when there is Disney World, Universal Studios and “Six Flags Over Everywhere,” it is hard for anyone to imagine just how special those “scary” rides were at the fair and how much I loved cotton candy!

I do not remember how old I was, but I vividly remember that stand which sold this new, amazingly sweet treat. I did not know that cotton candy had been introduced to the world at the 1904 World Fair in St. Louis and was called Fairy Floss. (No, I was not at that fair—not that old). At that fair, more than 68,000 boxes were sold for the equivalent of six dollars in today’s money. I do know how much I loved it.

My impressions of it? (1) It was so fascinating and attractive. (2) Everyone was talking about how good it was. (3) At first taste, it was so sweet, but then it disappeared in my mouth. (I did not know it was mostly air mixed with two tablespoons of sugar). (4) It promised so much and gave such instant gratification that I wanted more and more.

Now think of the many parallels between my impression of cotton candy and the nature of sin. Sometimes great lessons come from the simplest sources.

Sin and cotton candy are so fascinating and attractive. Think about the fruit in the first garden. Think of David’s view of Bathsheba from his rooftop. We so often sin when our hearts lust for what we see (Jas. 1:14). However, there is far more to sin when we look at the larger picture.

Sin and cotton candy are enjoyed by so many. That expensive cost of the floss in St. Louis did not keep individuals from buying it. So many thought that if others found it so “rewarding” they just had to try it, regardless of the cost. There are many on that broad way toward destruction (Matt. 7:13-14). There is that Divine instruction about following the multitude (Ex. 23:2).

Sin and cotton candy both promise so much and deliver so little. There is almost no nutritional value to cotton candy—it is nothing but air. Sin properly understood is in reality nothing but “fluff” that brings eternal destruction. When sin is finished it brings death and bondage (Jas. 1:15; 2 Pet. 2:20).

Sin and cotton candy both create a longing to have more and more. Every sin can become an addiction which brings us into bondage and is so addictive. Sin seems to satisfy but only for such a short time. The real choices are instant gratification or eternal reward.

Isn't it strange how often great spiritual or eternal truths come from such simple sources!

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

“Little” Sins, “Big” Sins and Full Grown Sins

By Dan Jenkins

Sometimes we mistakenly think of the magnitude of sins in a wrong way. We talk of “little” sins as being those which really do not “count” because they seem so innocent when compared to major blunders which only the most ungodly do. The Catholic Church even has the same view of sins which are characterized as venial and mortal sins.

When one has this mindset, he struggles to figure out how eating fruit from a tree in the Garden of Eden could be so wrong. How could such an “innocent” act be compared to the sin mentioned in in the next chapter where a brother kills his own brother? Surely, murder must be a greater sin than eating fruit.

The same mindset struggles to deal with the “little” sin Saul committed in First Samuel chapter thirteen. Saul had been king for only one year when he was confronted by the Philistine army which had 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen. Saul’s army had only 3,000 soldiers. The prophet Samuel told the king that he would come to the battlefield

and make sacrifices to God to seek His blessing in the conflict. For some unknown reason, Samuel was delayed, and Saul’s army was about to flee even before the battle was begun. He knew he could never defeat the Philistines without the Lord’s help and, though he was not a priest, he went ahead and offered the sacrifice. How could such be wrong? If it was a sin, it had to be a “little” one. Yet God did not see it this way. Saul’s “little” sin caused the kingdom to be taken from the lineage of Saul. Our view of “little” and “big” sins is often so wrong.

While the Bible does not use these words to describe sin, it does speak of “full grown” sins (Jas. 1:15). This verse describes the enticement of sin and the entrance into sin as the birth of sin. However, sin does not remain a “baby” sin. If it is not dealt with, it grows and grows in our lives. We often fail to realize that any sin can become an addiction. Peter described this process when he talked about Christians escaping the pollution of sin through following Christ but then are again “...entangled therein and overcome” (2 Pet. 2:20). Sin has remarkable power, and when we have waited until it grows we sometimes leave the Lord.

Joseph was enticed by Potiphar’s wife. He ran! Had he stayed he might have fallen into the bondage of sin. David was tempted and did not run! Look at the ruin such brought to his life and family.

“Little” sins may seem rather innocent when we are first enticed by them, but yielding to “little sins” from a heart set on ignoring God opens the door to the bondage of sin. When you sin, repent. Do not let it become full grown!

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